

THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 401
April 2008

Whatcote "Bluebell Walk"

Come for a gentle walk up to Hell Brake to see the Bluebells and enjoy a cream tea in the churchyard on your return.

Date: Sunday May 11th – 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Strong shoes or boots are essential! Dogs welcome if kept on a lead.

The cost is £5.00 for adults, accompanied children free, and this includes the tea and scones!

There will be a well stocked produce stall.

Proceeds to St Peter's Church

Contact Sue Price 01295 680007 for more details.

HONEY-BEE TENANTS WANTED

Should you be lucky enough to see an accessible swarm of honey-bees, please telephone me at the earliest opportunity and I will attempt to capture it and give it a new home. Reward, eventually(!), of a jar of honey to the informant.

Douglas Netherleft Tel. 07850 352905 or 01295 680041

MAY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the May issue by Midnight on **Friday, 25th April**? If you normally prepare your material using a computer, it would make my life easier if you could submit your offering in electronic form, though paper is, of course, fine. My 'official' e-mail address is **news-editor@oxhill.org.uk** if you wish to send me stuff that way.

George Adams, 680286

COVER PICTURE

My usual sources of cover pictures having dried up, I am forced back on my own resources. Looking out of the window that caused us not to join the Weekday Walkers (wimps that we are), this shot of the wonderful fountain in Trier seems somehow appropriate. It depicts all the trades, professions and peoples of Trier.

If you have a picture for me to use in future please let me have it. Otherwise – I have enough shots of this fountain to see a twelvemonth out. And then there are all the other fountains we saw on our trip along the Moselle. You have been warned.

Editor

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This is the annual Village Meeting and will be held on Tuesday 8th April 2008 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. If you have any items for the Agenda please let me know or just come along to the meeting.

Angela Kean, Clerk

VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. of the Village Hall will be held in the hall on Tuesday 29th April, starting at 8.00 p.m. There was a splendid turnout last year, and your committee hopes to see you all again this time. As required by the constitution, all members of the current committee will stand down and a new managing committee will be elected by the meeting. We would really like to see some of the younger members of the village coming along to say what they would like done and, hopefully, help to do it.

George Adams

VANDALISM – AGAIN

Spray-paint has appeared on the road surface at the junction of Main Street and Gilkes Lane. The vandalism was carried out either by a very grubby little boy or by an adult half-wit in need of psychiatric help.

The police are aware of this latest vandalism and are undoubtedly not short of suspects. They are short of witnesses and are encouraging all to be alert to this sort of behaviour and to absurdly bad and reckless driving which they also wish to eradicate with the help of the community.

Sgt. Darren Fretwell, based at Shipston, can be called on 01789 414111 Ext. 4588 or faxed on 01926 415728. His voicemail number is 11740 and his email address is darren.fretwell@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk.

I am regularly lectured by Darren Fretwell on the low level of reporting of incidents from the community. He assures me that the police are very keen to pursue local offenders, but his efforts, and those of his officers, are restricted if no intelligence from the village is forthcoming.

David Hill, Chairman, Oxhill Parish Council

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL
SERVICES IN APRIL

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 6th	Easter II	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 13th	Easter III	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (ML)
		6.30 p.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (NM)
Sunday 20th	Easter IV	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (ML)
Wednesday 23rd	St. George's Day	7.30 p.m. Special Service at Brailes (NM)
Sunday 27th	Easter V	9.30 a.m. Family Rogation Service (NM)

CURRY & LAMB LUNCH

Sunday 20th April
1 p.m.

Come along and join us for a curry and roast lamb lunch, to be held in a marquee in the grounds of Oxhill Manor by kind permission of Mrs. Gill Rodwell.

Adults £7.50, Children £3.50

Tickets are now available from Lilian, 68048 or Doreen, 680405.



Shipston Deanery Ascension Day

Holy Communion Service 2008

Thursday 1st May at 7:45 p.m.

St Thomas a Becket Church

Sutton-under-Brailes

'Up, Up and Away'

Preacher: Mrs Helen Winnifrith,

Reader from St. Edmunds, Shipston-on-Strour

Refreshments will follow the Service

NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH MARCH 2008 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

All Councillors were present

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Finance

As agreed for the current financial year ending 31st March, £600 was paid towards the cost of mowing the churchyard, £200 paid towards the cost of mowing grass adjacent to the Village Hall, £250.68 paid for publishing and printing the Oxhill News for 12 months, and £27.50 for affiliation fee to the Council for Voluntary Service which supports the Village Liaison Project.

Explanation for difference in Precept for 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 periods

If we look back over five years:

2004 we received £2200 contributing £800 to the Village Hall

2005 we received £2600 contributing £1100 to the Village Hall

2006 we received £2600 contributing £400 to the Village Hall

2007 we received £700 contributing £400 to the Village Hall but also had a surplus of £1000 from £2006.

2008 we will receive £3000 and will contribute approximately £1000 to the Village Hall to complete the necessary electrical work.

The Parish Council have always supported the Village Hall when requested. It also supports mowing the churchyard and grass adjacent to the Village Hall. Publication and printing of the Oxhill News is supported as is funding for the village web site. Insurance, clerk's expenses, internal and external audits have also to be paid and like everything else becomes more expensive. If you have any queries at all on this subject please let me know.

Winter Gritting

Warwickshire County Council could not justify altering the route to include Herd Hill. The existing gritting routes optimise the capacity of the vehicles without having to return to the depot to reload which would extend the time to complete the treatment. The gritting policy covers those roads carrying the greater volume of traffic. Alternative roads exist to reach Kineton.

Road Gulley Cleaning

Road gullies have been cleaned out and this normally takes place once per year.

Planning

Permission granted for a conservatory at The Malt House.

Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13th May 2008 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

Angela Kean, Clerk

NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL

The Anglo Saxons called this month Eastermonath which has obvious connections with Easter and may be derived from east, the direction of the sunrise, or of the cold winds that usually come from the east at this time of the year, but of course April is the month that Spring begins to make its presence felt. Trees become heavy with blossom and new leaves appear.

“All day long the bees are busy among the blooms, making an unceasing murmur, for April is beautiful to look upon; and if she hides her sweet face for a few hours behind the rain-clouds, it is only that she may appear again peeping out through the next burst of sunshine in a veil of fresher green, through which we see the red and white of her bloom.” Chambers Book of Days (1864).

The air on April mornings is filled with birdsong. The birds begin to pair off and nest building starts in earnest. Listen out for the first Cuckoo, usually in the Midlands round about 10 – 12 April, but don't be misled by the coincidental arrival of the Collared Doves, a Cuckoo sound-alike which often catches people out. Last year I only heard the Cuckoo, briefly, on two occasions in the village, and this was in early May, and it was much the same in 2006. Cuckoo numbers have declined dramatically over the last few years; this corresponds with a significant decline in their choice of “hosts” – in the Midlands and South, the Dunnock is the chosen foster parent, while in the North it is Meadow Pipit and in the Eastern counties the Reed Warbler. These three birds apparently account for 80% of Cuckoo host nests. There is another factor in its decline and that is down to its specialised diet, feeding almost exclusively on caterpillars and in particular the hairy and sometimes toxic varieties. Dissected gizzards of Cuckoos are often covered in these hairs, so much so they look like fur! Such a specific diet, which has been severely affected by half a century of intensive insecticide use, may also be a factor in its decline. Also a wet, cold spring will delay the emergence of caterpillars and the Cuckoos with either move on or perish.

One of the advantages of writing these nature notes is that many people in the village will stop me, phone me, or even screech to a halt in their vehicles to report or ask about something (usually a bird) they have seen. I have even had letters and emails from far afield where people have read nature notes on line. I recently had an email from a gentleman living in the Chilterns asking about Red Kites. What emerges from this though is what a wonderful selection of wildlife we have within our village boundaries, with occasional visits from rarities such as Redpolls, Wrynecks, Convolvulus hawk moths, and just recently (from a very reliable source) a pair of Little Egrets – standing in a field alongside the village. It is a medium-sized pure white heron with distinctive yellow feet, black legs, and has become one of the most successful colonists of British coastal areas in recent times. They do move about, but I suspect this pair were “wind blown” as we had just experienced quite severe storms. This gives me an idea. Why don't we – everyone reading this – do our own April Nature Watch (this is not an April fool!)? I don't want precise numbers, but for the month of April, tell me what you have in your garden – mammals, amphibians, butterflies and other insects, birds – and the number seen at any one time. For instance we have a colony of about 15 to 20 House Sparrows, when I know other

houses in the village have none, but it would be marvellous to build up a picture of just what we do have. Just scribble it on a piece of paper and pop it through my letterbox – Peacock House next door to the pub – or email me on mooreandmoore@beeb.net. If I get a good response I will include a précis in the June issue. Let me have your observations by the end of April if possible.

“In April the 28th 1772, there died at Mile End a goat that had twice circumnavigated the globe, first in the discovery ship Dolphin, under Captain Wallis, and secondly, in the renowned Endeavour under Captain Cook. The Lords of the Admiralty had, just previous to her death, signed a warrant admitting her to the privileges of an in-pensioner of Greenwich Hospital, a boon she did not, unfortunately, live to enjoy.” Chambers Book of Days (1864). No-one explains why the goat went on the voyages – 2nd officer or “goatswain”? But I suspect to eat all the galley scraps and give milk in return.

Our visiting pair of Curlew is back in the village – listen out for them.

Grenville Moore

HARPISCHORD AT ARMSCOTE HOUSE

I have been asked to host a performance in words and music about the famous harpsichordist Violet Gordon Woodhouse at Armscote on Friday 10th October. Violet lived in a rather well known Ménage a quatre at Armscote House and her life was written about in a book by Jessica Douglas-Home. This will be in aid of Shipston Home Nursing.

World famous harpsichordist Maggie Cole will be performing and actors Harriet Walter and Guy Henry have been approached to perform with her again in this presentation.

For more information about Maggie and the performance click on her website: www.maggiecole.net

To book tickets please email Deborah at deborah.williams@armscotemanor.co.uk.

Deborah Williams

FIRST AID COURSE FOR VOLUNTEERS

A one-day first aid course for persons involved on a voluntary basis in organisations, clubs & societies that service the local community has been organised.

The course will be held on Sunday 13th April. The cost will be £10 – the balance kindly subsidised by WCC Adult & Community Learning.

Further details from Douglas Nethercleft on 01295 680041.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

We only have one walk in April, as follows:

Friday 11th April

Brailles to Whichford, a 6.9 mile walk with 390 feet of ascent and lunch at “The Norman Knight”. We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

Please contact Jim Saxton 01295 680613 or saxton@tiscali.co.uk before the Thursday prior to the walk.

FILMS IN THE HALL

The usual small band of devotees turned out to see ‘Elizabeth – the Golden Age’ recently. The film was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present who thoroughly enjoy that sort of thing.

Because the hall has no effective blackout and the projector cannot produce a reasonable image in daylight the current season of Films in the Hall has now ended. The general plan is to start again in October, though that will of course be finally decided by the new committee, which will be elected at the A.G.M.

I would like to offer my grateful thanks to all those who have supported this venture during its first season, and apologise to the film buffs for not being so myself.

George Adams

LOCAL OUTDOOR PURSUITS & ATTRACTIONS

Radway Meadows Nature Reserve – Grid ref. SP366475

Two meadows covering 23 acres south of King John’s Lane, Radway
www.warwickshire-wildlife-trust.org.uk/help/Radway07/RadwayDetails.htm

Fir Tree Falconry Centre, Warmington Hawking Days, Owl Evenings

Contact – Keith Jones 07714 032543, www.firtreefalconry.co.uk

Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Oxhill Visitor Centre & Café - 01926 691219

www.redwings.org.uk/visit-oxhill.htm

Shipston Beekeepers

Contact - Christine Boylan 01608 682218, www.wbka.org

Flyball Training at Newborough Farm, Oxhill

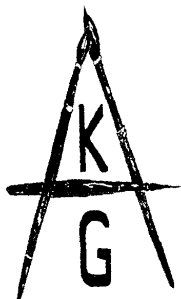
Team game for dogs, as seen at Crufts

Contact – Douglas Nethercleft 01295 680041, www.fourcountiesflyballers.org

Gundog Training at Kirby Farm, Oxhill

Contact - Anna Furniss 01295 688368

Douglas Nethercleft (VLO, Oxhill)



KINETON ART GROUP
EXHIBITION & SALE OF PAINTINGS

Saturday 10th May

Sunday 11th May

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Kineton Village Hall

Admission: Adults 50p, Children welcome

Refreshments & Raffle

Please come, have a cup of tea and enjoy over 300 paintings

FISH TO GO

Has the heron visited your pond recently?

If so, you need our fish!

Our pond is overstocked.

Please restock yours with some of our koi and goldfish
before the pondweed grows again and we cannot see them any longer.

Don't delay, call today!

George & Gwyn, 680286

OPERA AT WHICHFORD HOUSE

Bampton Classical Opera are presenting Mozart's opera 'Apollo and Hyacinth' at the newly restored Whichford House on

Tuesday 17th June

The event will be black tie. Drinks will be served in the house at 6.00 p.m. followed by the performance of the opera in the marquee at 6.30 and then dinner at 8.15.

Tickets cost £85 each and include drinks and dinner. They can be requested by writing to Bridget Barker at Whichford House, Whichford, Warwickshire, CV36 5PG (cheques payable to Bridget Barker) or by telephoning her on 020 7370 or 01608 684437.

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

presents

“ALI BABA”

The Puppet Panto



in The Barn Theatre,
Baldwins Lane,
Upper Tysoe, Warwick
CV35 0TX

SIX SHOWS
all in APRIL 2008

Sat. 12th 2:30pm & 7:30pm
Sun. 13th 2:30 pm

Fri. 25th 7:30 pm
Sat. 26th 2:30 pm & 7:30pm

A glittering treasure trove, robbers in jars, a dancing slave girl, Ali Baba's camel and - "Oh my goodness!" - a Snake Charmer. Thrill to the sounds of Arabian music, spectacular sets, magical lighting and realistic 14" marionettes in our comfortable theatre. You are advised to book early for this unusual production of Ali Baba.

Children (aged 8+) £3, Adults £5

Admission, by ticket only
(Cheques to Mr JM Beeny)

All proceeds given to charities

Contact:

Ann Beeny (Tysoe) 01295 680431
JonandAnn@annbeeny.f9.co.uk
www.warkcom.net/TysoeMarionettes

THE PEACOCK

The Village Coffee Morning and Lunch will take place as usual on the first and third Wednesdays in April respectively. Following the two successful Saints Days in March, April 23rd will see a special 'Taste of England' menu for St. George's Day. [Any bets on roast beef & Yorkshire? Ed.]

To end the month, on Wednesday 30th, there will be a Charity Race Night starting at 8.30, with an entry of £2 per race and all proceeds going to charity.

Yvonne & Pam

VICARAGE NOTES

Holy Week and Easter

My thanks to all who have prepared for and shared in the various services, and all who decorated the church so attractively – a symbol of Easter new life.

A.P.C.M.

The Annual Church meeting will take place on April 13th at 6.30 p.m. in Church - all are welcome. The meeting includes all the elections and reports, including the presentation of the accounts for 2007. Do come if you can.

Invitations

Brailes Church celebrates St. George's Day every year – folk from Oxhill are warmly invited to the special service. April 27th is Rogation Sunday and, weather permitting, the Family Service will include prayers outside. Don't forget the curry and lamb lunch on the 20th!

Thought for the month

There has been so much sadness in the news recently, both on the international stage with breakdowns in peace processes, and nearer at home with local tragedies such as the Stow Road accident. The French worker-priest wrote:

Tomorrow, God isn't going to ask - what did you dream, what did you think,
what did you plan, what did you preach? He's going to ask – what did you do?

As the church continues to celebrate the promise of resurrection, such words are a reminder of the work it then has to do – the challenge of creating new life and hope!

Best wishes and God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

LIFE WELL LINK

A new exciting initiative has opened in the Stratford Healthcare Building, Arden Street, Stratford-upon-Avon recently. *Life Well Link* is an information and support centre for any adult who has been diagnosed and is living with any potentially life threatening and life limiting illness.

Life Well Link will provide access to high quality information on a wide range of conditions, treatments and procedures, along with emotional support for the patient, the carer, family members, friends and employers.

The centre is staffed by experienced nurses and specially trained volunteers who provide the 'pop-in' service free of charge. The centre is open Monday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - no appointment or referral is needed.

Life Well Link is a service developed and provided by:

The Shakespeare Hospice, Registered Charity No.1064091.

Contact - Linda Bister, 01789 416950, www.lifewelllink.org.uk.

Douglas Nethercleft (VLO, Oxhill)

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

April

Wednesday 2nd		The Peacock – Village Coffee Morning
	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I. – Mr. M. Lynn; ‘The Crown Prosecution Service’
Tuesday 8th	8.00	Village Hall – Annual Parish Meeting
Friday 11th	10.00	Weekday Walkers – see inside for details
Wednesday 16th		The Peacock – Village Lunch
Sunday 20th	1.00	The Manor – Curries & Roast Lamb Lunch
Wednesday 23rd		The Peacock – St. George’s Day ‘Taste of England’
Friday 25th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Saturday 26th	7.45	Ettington Community Centre – Shipston Home Nursing, Cottage Pie Dance – Call Rebecca on 01608 674929 for details & tickets
Tuesday 29th	8.00	Village Hall – Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 30th		Oxhill Garden Watch – survey results to Grenville

May

Thursday 1st	7.45 p.m.	Sutton-under-Brailes Church – Ascension Day service
Friday May 2nd	10.30–12.30	Gabriel Cottage, Pasture Lane, Blockley – SHN Coffee Morning. Phone 01386 700313 for further details
Wednesday 7th		W.I. – Lunch at Clifford Chambers
Friday 9th	8.00	Village Hall – Italian Dinner
Saturday 10th	10 – 5	Kinton Village Hall – Art exhibition & sale
Sunday 11th	10 – 5	As above
	2 – 5	Hell Brake, Whatcote – Bluebell Walk
Tuesday 13th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council meeting
Saturday 17th	10-noon	Norgren Social Club, Shipston – Shipston Home Nursing Plant Sale
Sunday 18th	May 1 – 5	Marquee at Green End Farm, Willington – Shipston Home Nursing Picnic & Play – take your own picnic, entertainment provided. £5 per adult, children free. Call Rebecca on 01608 674929 for further information

June

Tuesday 3rd	10-4.30	Burmington Grange – Shipston Home Nursing Champagne & Shop
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th		Scarecrow Weekend
Tuesday 17th	6.00	Whichford House – Opera – details inside